

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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22

ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /035 W  
----- 092623

R 022000Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3284  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE  
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

UNCLAS KINGSTON 5255

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: EAGR, JM  
SUBJECT: SUGAR CANE SMUT DISEASE DISCOVERED ON TWO ESTATES IN JAMAICA

1. FOR THE FIRST TIME SUGAR CANE SMUT DISEASE HAS BEEN DISCOVERED IN JAMAICA. THE DISEASE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED ON INNSWOOD AND BERNARD LODGE SUGAR ESTATES IN ST CATHERINE. ONE OF WIDEST GROWN VARIETIES IN JAMAICA, HJ5741, IS HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE DISEASE, AND PLANTING WILL BE DISCONTINUED. ACCORDING TO SUGAR INDUSTRY AUTHORITY, SURVEYS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SIRI), AND THE ALL ISLAND JAMAICA CANE FARMERS ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN NOTIFIED. SIRI'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR STATED THAT NOTIFICATION OF DISCOVERY OF DISEASE IS BEING SENT TO OVERSEAS SUGAR JOURNALS AND SUGAR CANE GROWING INTERESTS IN LOUISIANA, FLA AND CARIBBEAN.

2. SIRI HAS STARTED DISTRIBUTION OF RESISTANT VARIETIES, B4362, B41227 AND B11129, TO SUGAR CANE CULTIVATORS ACROSS THE ISLAND, AND SCREENING OF THESE FOR RESISTANCE TO THE DISEASE IS BEING UNDERTAKEN. DISEASE IS BEING CURBED BY TAKING OUT AFFECTED STALKS AT BASE OF CANE RATHER THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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BY WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION OF AFFECTED FIELDS. SUGAR

AUTHORITIES HAVE EXPRESSED FEARS THAT IF DISEASE SPREADS  
THERE MAY BE SHORTAGE OF REPLACEMENT VARIETIES.

3. PRELIMINARY RESEARCH BY SIRI INDICATES THAT INFESTATION  
APPEARS "AT A FAIRLY LOW LEVEL", AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT  
ANY SIGNIFICANT YIELD LOSSES WILL OCCUR IN THE 1976/77  
(DECEMBER-JUNE) CROP. HOWEVER, THE 1977/78 RATOON CROP  
MAY BE AFFECTED, BUT EXTENT IS UNKNOWN AT PRESENT.

GERARD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SUGAR, DISEASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976KINGST05255  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**TAGS:** EAGR, JM  
**To:** STATE  
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